



Connecticut  
Chiropractic  
Council

CT Chiropractic Council  
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Statement of Karlos Boghosian, D.C.  
Connecticut Chiropractic Council  
Senate Bill 284  
January 29, 2015

Members of the committee:

My name is Karlos Boghosian, D.C. For a number of years, I have operated the Capitol Chiropractic Center here in Hartford.

I am speaking today for the Connecticut Chiropractic Council, a statewide professional association of Chiropractic physicians in the state. On behalf of our members, we would like to thank you for raising Senate Bill 284 which will restore Chiropractic services to the Medicaid program.

In some respects, I feel like I am “preaching to the choir.”

Your committee has supported this legislation in the past and you’ve been there for our patients time and time again. You’ve really been champions for the needy and we thank you for that.

Chiropractic is available to Medicare recipients. It is included in Worker Compensation medical treatments. We are part of individual and group health insurance plans in the state. We also treat children in the HUSKY program.

The missing link is the adults who are Medicaid enrollees. They are not now eligible because Chiropractic was dropped as a covered Medicaid service in 2002.

We’ve worked on a number of occasions to add chiropractic back to Medicaid. But, you and I know what has caused the bill to stall in the past: cost. State budget officials say it will increase healthcare costs. We believe it *reduces* them.

Our treatments do not involve drugs and we avoid surgeries. These are huge cost *avoidances*—and that is what happens with Chiropractic.

A four-year study in Illinois covering 21,700 patient months tracked our costs versus traditional physician care for patients. The Chiropractic patients had a reduction in hospital admissions of

43 percent, a reduction in hospital days of 58 percent and a reduction in pharmaceutical costs of 51 percent. (*Journal of Manipulative and Physiologic Therapeutics, June 2004*)

As a placeholder, the General Assembly created a special program of Chiropractic care for Medicaid adults in 2012 that was funded at a capped appropriation of \$250,000. Again, we appreciate that this step was taken for the patients.

The \$250,000 state program was closed to new applicants just a few months after it began in the current fiscal year. Clearly, this shows there is a great demand for Chiropractic services by this population.

We believe the time has come to restore Chiropractic to the Medicaid program as a fully covered service that would be available when needed by any enrollee.

The members of the Connecticut Chiropractic Council hope you will support SB 284 and send it over to the Appropriations Committee. We've already been meeting with members of that panel and we hope to convince them that adding Chiropractic back to Medicaid will *not* increase gross expenditures to the state.

Thank you for considering our views on this important bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.